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UMW Debates in D.C.



Courtesy of Anand Rao

Above: Kevin Kallmyer, junior, participates in Monday's inaugural debate in D.C.

By KAITLIN MAYHEW
Staff Writer

UMW was one of six college debate teams to gather on the eve of the Presidential Inauguration to debate President Barack Obama's policies in an inaugural debate series.

The debate team argued healthcare policies as a part of a three debate series at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Baird Auditorium on Monday.

The debate series was sponsored directly by the Presidential Inaugural Committee, and was an official inauguration event.

Another event sponsor was the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture. The curator, John Davis, was directly involved in planning the debating event along with Timothy O'Donnell, UMW debate coach, and Jeff Poro, author of the story that became the 2007 movie "The Great Debaters" starring Denzel Washington.

Poro was amazed by the success of the event, and proud of its historical significance. He could hardly believe such an event that included so many nationally competitive debate teams had come from an idea that he, O'Donnell and Davis had dreamt up.

"It gives me chills," Poro said. "When I first walked in that door it hit me. This is real."

The three not only planned the event, but founded the Debate Consortium, another sponsor of the debate series that connects schools from all over the country that are interested in debate, and helps historically black colleges and universities restart their debate programs.

"Over the last three decades or more, the number of historically black teams has dwindled to the point where there are none," Davis said.

Fayetteville State University and Voorhees College, two historically black universities who have joined the consortium were present at the Inaugural event debating alongside their nationally competitive peers.

Both Fayetteville State University and Voorhees College made their first appearances in competitive debate on Monday. They are currently working with other colleges and universities including UMW to create permanent debate programs to benefit their students and curriculums.

"We are very excited," Dr. Janice J. Hayne, vice chancellor for Student Affairs at Fayetteville State University, said. "What we hear from employers all the time is that they are looking for students who can articulate well and debate is a great way for students to learn that."

The representative debaters from UMW, sophomore Terrell Taylor, and junior Kevin Kallmyer debated at the University of Southern California in a heated debate over policies on healthcare and the economy. Wake Forest University, the 2008 National Champions and Michigan State University were also present. Other issues discussed in-

Welcoming Change

University Members' Inauguration Images Capture Moments from Tuesday's Events



Mary Turner/Bullet



Courtesy of Anand Rao

Above: President Obama addresses guests at the Commander-in-Chief Ball Tuesday night. Left: The Capitol Building during the Inauguration Ceremony preparations, Tuesday, 5:30 a.m. Bottom: Crowd at the National Mall on Tuesday during the Ceremony.



Mary Turner/Bullet

UMW Makes it Rain Downtown

By ERIC STEIGLEDER
Staff Writer

In early 2008, the University of Mary Washington commissioned a study to gauge the economic impact of the University's spending in the Fredericksburg area. The findings revealed the college's monetary impact on the region to be well into the hundreds of millions.

The study was conducted by Stephen Fuller, an economics professor and Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. Fuller was chosen, according to Executive Vice President Richard Hurley, due to his familiarity with the Fredericksburg area, previous experience conducting similar studies, and his renown as a gifted regional economist.

Fuller authored a comparable study for GMU in 2006, and two studies for George Washington University in 1993 and 2000. The UMW study took three months to complete, which was followed by a

lengthy period of review process.

According to Fuller, the main source of information came from university audits of spending, student numbers, and areas of residence. More in depth economic information about the region came from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

“It is important to remind ourselves and the community exactly what the economic impact of our presence is.”
—Richard Hurley

more than half of the University's direct spending. Student spending in the region totaled close to \$6.3-million dollars, not including housing-related expenditures.

According to the study, "For every dollar of University or university-related spending in the Fredericksburg region, an additional 55

Protest Extends Library Hours

By JUSTIN TONEY
Staff Writer

At midnight on Monday, December 7, in the first freezing minutes of last semester's exam week, the library would not empty, and an irregular process began to change UMW policy.

In the yellow half-glow of the closed third floor, 17 students quietly and obstinately sat at the study desks. Some ate potato chips, others read and all refused to leave. For a half an hour they talked with library staff and police, and then, as planned, they left.

Although police could have charged the students with trespassing, none were

charged, according to co-organizer Amanda Gardner.

Juniors Gardner and Daniel Kauffman organized the sit-in via a Facebook group hoping it would prompt the University to allow students 24-hour library access during exam week.

The participants succeeded completely.

Twelve days after the sit-in, administrators in the Student Services Committee allocated funds to keep Simpson Library continuously open during finals week.

Vice President for Strategy and Policy Nina Mikhalevsky brought the sit-

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Justin Toney/Bullet

Above: Students took unorthodox steps to secure 24-hour exam week access to the University library after closing. Administrators said regular protocols were already in place.

► See DEBATE, page 9

► See SPENDING, page 9

Weekly Events

Comedian Chelsea Peretti

Fri., January 23, 8 p.m. Great Hall. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Presented by Giant Productions.

The Undeniably Adjacent

First show of the semester. Fri., January 23, 8 p.m. Combs 139.

Cheap Seats

The Changeling & Rocknrolla. Fri. January 23–Sun. January 25. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Dodd Auditorium.

Recyclemania

January 18–March 28. UMW Landscaping and Grounds and the Ecology sponsored recycling contest. 377 schools will compete. More information available at umw.edu/recycle

UMW Bookstore Winter Sale

January 22. Save 10% – 50% off one regularly priced clothing or insignia item at the UMW Bookstore. Save up to 75% on additional select merchandise. Some exceptions apply.

Events courtesy of OSACS. If you would like your event listed, contact The Bulletin at newsxcrew@gmail.com. Send a flyer image if possible.

Want to get involved? Come to a staff meeting on Sunday at 8 p.m. in the Bulletin office, located in the lower-level of Seacobeck, or contact newsxcrew@gmail.com

Outside the Fence



By HEATHER BRADY
News Editor

Regional

Bond was set at \$2,500 yesterday for each of the nine high school students, six adults and three 17-year-old juveniles, charged with two counts of malicious wounding by mob of two other teens for the Jan. 11 incident at a field next to the Stonybrook subdivision off State Route 208. The two teens, ages 18 and 19, were hospitalized after the beating, which was videotaped with a cell phone, and have since been released. The nine suspects were being held without bond until yesterday, when it was issued pending an arraignment on Feb. 6 in juvenile and domestic relations court. The details and motive for the attack remain unclear, even among those involved in the case. (The Free

Lance-Star, Jan. 21; www.fredericksburg.com)

National

Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States yesterday, promising to "begin again the work of remaking America." President Obama, the son of a black man from Kenya and a white woman from Kansas, inherited a White House built partly by slaves and a nation in crisis at home and abroad. More than a million people bore witness as he recited the oath of office, with his hand on the same Bible that Abraham Lincoln used at his inauguration 148 years ago. But Mr. Obama sobered the celebration with the grim assessment of the state of a nation rocked by home foreclosures, lost jobs, shuttered businesses, failing schools and the threat of climate change. "Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real," Mr. Obama said in his address. "They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this, America, they will be met." (The Washington Post, Jan. 21; www.washingtonpost.com)

Global

On Tuesday, Israel slowed its withdrawal of forces from Gaza as the two-day cease-fire with Hamas suffered its first violations. Both sides declared unilateral cease-fires on Sunday, after a three-week Israeli assault aimed at stopping years of rocket fire. Hamas said Israel had seven days to leave, but Israel said it would leave on its own schedule, and only if Hamas stopped firing. However, Israeli troops twice came under fire on Tuesday, and eight mortars were shot at Israel, all of which fell short. Israel responded with air strikes on launching sites. Israel would not comment on the pace of withdrawal, but Israel Radio's military affairs correspondent reported that some soldiers held positions in northern Gaza to make sure Hamas did not retake rocket-launching sites. The Arab leaders in the area remain divided on how to respond to Israel's offensive in Gaza. (The Washington Post, Jan. 21; www.washingtonpost.com)

Right: The area adjacent to the Woodard Campus Center that formally was the Eagle's Nest eating deck. According to John Wiltenmuth, associate vice president of Facilities Services, construction on the replacement deck has been delayed due to weather and problems with the area's foundation. Revisions to the deck's plans are in progress. Last semester, Vice President Richard Hurley told the Bulletin the costs of the project will be approximately \$480,000.

Photo by Sean Comerford/Bulletin



More Parking for Residents' Cars

By JOHANNAH O'KEEFE
Staff Writer

As of Monday, January 12, the Office of Public Safety has instituted changes to the parking policy and traffic regulations on campus in response to student complaints and recommendations of the Student Senate.

The changes will be made permanent if the student body demonstrates an adherence to the new policies, which the Office of Public Safety hopes will be an improvement for students and faculty/staff.

Initiative one states that residential students may park in commuter spaces from 5 p.m. on Fridays through 7 a.m. on Mondays. A fine of \$40 will be enforced for violating the restrictions.

The second initiative states that UMW Apartment-decal vehicles may park in the Goolrick Commuter Lots from 5 p.m. to midnight every night of the week.

Initiative three states that all residential and commuter students may park in any open Faculty/Staff space Mondays through Thursdays from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. the following day; Fridays from 5 p.m. through Mondays at 7 a.m. However, the GW Lot, Monroe Small Lot, Goolrick Lot, and Simpson Library Lot will remain restricted at all times. Students may not park in lots reserved for events or areas where weather emergency parking is in effect.

UMW-registered vehicles will be towed and the owner will pay for towing if violations occur.

The fourth initiative provides for fifteen-minute parking spaces for each residence hall enforced by the honor system. Any vehicle may pull into these spaces to allow for quick drop off or pick up of passengers and items. Should an officer become aware that a vehicle has been parked in a fifteen-

minute spot for an excessive amount of time, there will be a fine of \$15. Initiative five states that for entering and exiting the Russell Hall lot onto Sunken Road

the driveway farthest from William Street will be the enter drive to prevent traffic from backing up on William Street. The driveway nearest William Street will be the exit drive.

This initiative will also be enforced by the honor system, but should an officer observe a violation, the driver may be issued a Virginia Uniform Summons for "Failure to Obey a Highway Sign," which is a \$30 fine plus court costs.

Senior commuter student Sean Freeman sees the new parking policies as an improvement, but says they are more beneficial for residential students.

"The new parking initiative doesn't provide that much relief for commuter students. Most of the changes that were made mainly benefitted residential students," Freeman explains. Although he agrees that the new parking and traffic policies should ease some of the frustrations among residential students with cars, he echoed similar student complaints that the new policies were not expansive enough.

"UMW could do a little more to solve some of the parking concerns of commuters, like spots available that aren't just on the Jepson side of campus," he said.

All questions and comments about the new parking and traffic initiatives should be directed to Sean O'Brien, President of the Student Government Association. <http://studentgov.umwblogs.org/>

Bernard Chirico Steps Down After 12 Years as Dean

◀ CHIRICO, page 1

Ranny Corbin, the executive assistant to the president, said that President Judy Hample has selected the search firm Witt/Kieffer.

"The search firm maintains a database of candidates," Corbin said. "They will advertise for us and help us find candidates."

There is also a search committee in place composed of staff and students to profile and interview the candidates before making a recommendation to Hample. Hample makes the final decision on hiring.

Corbin is hopeful that a replacement for Student Affairs will be announced by July 1, 2009.

Sean O'Brien, the president of Student Government Association, worked with Chirico as a student representative on the Board of Visitors. O'Brien is also going to be a member of the search committee.

According to O'Brien, Chirico was always concerned with student needs.

"The replacement needs to be a real student advocate," O'Brien said. "They need to have a vision of student life so

they can understand who we are and where we are going."

The replacement will need to bring student concerns to the president and executive staff so that change can be implemented.

Nicolas Perilla, the president of the Judicial Review Board, worked with Chirico since JRB falls under Student Affairs.

"We are running smoothly because

Chirico was not involved with the day to day decisions," Perilla said.

According to Perilla, Chirico's decision for retirement was a personal one.

"I respect his decision to retire," Perilla said. "I had a great time working with him."

"I am going to miss the relationships I formed with students," said Chirico. "I felt that Honor Council was making significant changes."

In an email from Mannix, Hample extended her best wishes to Chirico in his retirement.

"Bernie has served Mary Washington with distinction for many years, but his greatest legacy will be the positive influence he has had on the lives of the many UMW students he counseled and advised," Hample said.



Alex Jaffee/Bulletin

Viewpoints

UMW: Change We Can Recommend?

In these days following Tuesday's inauguration of President Barack Obama, the entire United States, and beyond, sits at the table, hungrily licking its lips for some highly promised change.

Mary Washington students, within the smaller realm of campus, are hoping for change that will affect their daily routine as students.

As can be seen through recent actions like the installation of a new Internet system and the new library policy of 24-hour access during exam week, changes can be asked for and made by the UMW student body and the administration, so why stop there?

We at the *Bullet*, through letters to the editor and conversations generally overheard by every student on campus daily, have heard countless cries for amendments to campus life, some absolutely absurd, some extremely intelligent.

Among some of the winning ideas are better dining options, higher salaries for professors, more logistical parking arrangements and freshman parking.

Others include the wish for more school spirit and attendance at sporting events and dreams of a football team,

one of the few sports not represented at the school on the varsity level.

The *Bullet* even has its own wish list for campus-wide change, but those include more obscure requests like a more responsive administration and staff and more diversity in the range of journalism classes offered.

The list goes on, however, and that's not the point.

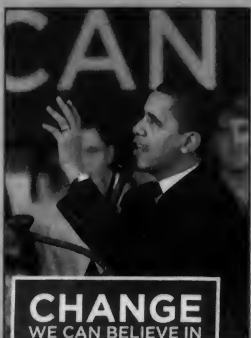
The point is that student-voiced change is possible on the UMW campus, and the administration is willing to work with students on making these changes.

As the students who protested the Simpson Library exam week hours showed by refusing to leave the library at closing, sometimes students just need to get a little louder.

Not to say that protest is always the appropriate answer, but to change anything

one must do more than just preach to the choir.

At this point, UMW has made more change than the Obama administration. In the past few years great improvements have been made to campus life at the University, and that's a trend that can and should continue with the cooperation of staff and students.



Staff Editorial

Government Should Think Local; Voters Should Think Global

BY BREEANNA SVEUM
Assistant Viewpoints Editor

Despite Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza strip in recent days, the dominant story in the papers and on people's minds has been the Inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States.

I'll let the Inauguration coverage slide a little because after all, it means that eight years of horror at the hands of Bush and Cheney are finally, officially over, but surely there is more going on than the swearing in of the president and vice president (okay, also the speeches and the concerts).

The problem is that many Americans are less than concerned about events that occur outside of our borders. Most people, I find, would be hard pressed to identify the reason for Israel's invasion of Gaza, or even where the two are located.

American news is extremely self-centered, and for the most part, it is with good reason.

Few world events directly affect Americans immediately like the layoffs resulting from economic collapse.

In recent years, the government has become increasingly concerned about exporting democracy to countries like Iraq and Afghanistan and the American people have become decreasingly concerned about the same in favor of American Idol and that plane that landed in the Hudson river.

It's about time for a switch. It's a big wide world, and plenty of things are happening in it. Regardless of whether they affect us directly and immediately, a butterfly in Israel,

can cause a hurricane in Virginia, and people should be at least be minimally aware of what's going on.

Similarly, with two wars currently in motion, it's time for the new administration to turn its eyes inward to focus on our more pressing problems: millions of uninsured Americans who can't get coverage for chronic conditions, a multi-trillion dollar deficit and everyone from General Motors to the Postal Service asking for a bailout. And those are just the economic problems.

Certainly there are other countries with worse plights than ours. Darfur and Zimbabwe come to mind, for example.

Whether you think we ought to or not, it's difficult to help other countries with the weakening value of the dollar and our economy in shambles.

We've heard little from the previous administration beside terrorist threats and democracy and now, as is Obama's rallying cry, it's time for a change.

Perhaps it's time to think about the civil rights of same-sex couples that were discriminated out of marriage.

Maybe we should be concerned about a healthcare system that only grants proper medical care to those who can afford it, a number that keeps decreasing.

The world is a big place and much of it is far worse off than we are.

Americans would do well to know about at least the most general goings on of countries we can't see from our borders, as well as those we can.

Likewise, the government, after eight years of looking across the border, should take a glance into our own country and our own problems.



Despite its lack of immediate effect on the United States, the events in Gaza should not be ignored by citizens due to its potential long-term consequences.



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the
Bullet

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Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seabrook Hall or sent to our e-mail at unwbullet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

Viewpoints

Hickeys: Why They Suck

Two years ago I had friends who used to chase each other around, trying to give one another hickies. It was an odd game that I opted to watch from the side and laugh menacingly at when someone was caught and tortured with the act of bruising via mouth.

The next day the carnage was apparent with those friends walking around with scarves, glaring at their saboteurs as they passed by. In retrospect, it was a pretty stupid game and the end result left spirits rather bitter.

But even in a non-immature-college-game situation, I find the shag tag, love-bite, monkey bite, or in layman's terms, the hickey to be a gratuitous act of little sexual benefit.

What possesses someone to suck on their partner's neck for so long that their blood vessels literally pop in their neck?

What interests a person in having their neck sucked hard enough to actually be painful, with the end result of a bruise for nearly a week?

The hickey is an embarrassment, an accomplishment, and above all, a statement.

I sat with my friends a few days ago, watching football and eating chips when I blurted out without any warning "Why do people like hickies?"

After receiving a collective blank stare from everyone in the room, one of my friends said with a smile, "They're fun."

She went on to explain that for her, when she's getting to "know" a guy at a party or whatnot, it's just kind of fun to have that mark of ownership on someone's neck, proclaiming to all of the world "Oh, yes. We were intimate and now this boy is mine for the next few days."

In a sense, she did have a good point. I don't think there are many girls who would look at a guy with a hickey-adorned neck and say "Gee, he

looks single with a great neck to suck."

The one beautiful thing about hickies is that they are universal, ignoring the walls of sexism to provide a message for all people to enjoy and judge. Hickies aren't a male or female thing.

They're an "I was here" thing, like a mark of pride.

Of course, not everyone finds the beauty in the art of hickey production. So just to help out those of you who were wronged by a tricky mouth, there are a few ways to remove the blemish.

A hickey is a bruise. So like a bruise it follows similar applications. If you realize that the necking has gone into code red, immediately apply ice to the spot to

minimize redness and swelling. Massaging the area also disperses the blood under the skin, making it appear less red. I've also heard through the grapevine that multiple applications of a warm teabag to the abused skin works really well but takes a long time.

Of course the most traditional (and popular) solution will always be cover and deny.

Cover up is a popular method but makeup can only cover so much; while scarves and turtle-necks are a perfect solution in the winter. In the summer you're on your own.

Just like most of the sexual practices and problems we are faced with every day, the best and easiest solution to avoid the hickey dilemma is to avoid getting bruised in the first place.

If you feel that a spot on your neck is getting a bit too much attention, let your partner know. It's not like he or she is going to look at you angrily and walk away because you hurt his or her feelings.

I don't know anyone who takes any particular pride in their hickey production skills and I hope I never will.



photo courtesy of projectthis.wordpress.com

Sexclamations
By KJ Adler,
Staff Writer

A Day at the Mall: Shopping Bag-Free

On Tuesday I spent 12 hours at a mall, and it wasn't for the two-for-one sale at Urban Outfitters.

Along with over a million frost-bitten fanatics, I woke up at 3 a.m. to brave the National Mall, battling my ice-caked eyelashes as President Obama solemnly swore.

Despite bitter temperatures, the ceremony was enthralling. Tuesday was a typical day in a series of exceptional experiences spent in between the Capitol and the Washington Monument. It was empowering and humbling at the same time.

The relationship that Cher from "Clueless" had with the shopping mall is what I have with the National Mall. It is my playground.

Along with the expected festivals and rallies, the Mall has been my site for picnics, first dates and pick-up games of Ultimate Frisbee.

Relationships have begun and ended on the Mall, starting with hand holding on the carousel and ending at the National Gallery with my wooer attempting to urinate in Marcel Duchamp's "Fountain."

The first time I ever saw "Annie Hall," my favorite movie of all time, was at a Screen on the Green on the Mall. I sat on a blanket under the stars, remarking on the striking similarities between my parents and Woody Allen and Diane Keaton.

That same summer, after watching "All the President's Men" on the Mall, I decided to give that whole journalism thing a dabble.

Every time I start out on the gravel path next to the entrance to Smithsonian castle, I cut across the green with fresh perspective and insight. Tuesday was no exception. Though my

view of Obama's speech consisted of the back of a 6-foot-tall man's North Face jacket, actually being there was an experience no Youtube video could simulate.

Even though I live nine Metro stops away in Arlington, this was my first inauguration on the Mall, seeing as my father made us drive two states away to escape both of George W. Bush's Texasfests. (I will never forgive him for making me miss Ricky Martin's dance off with W.)

Standing in such a giant mass of people can be inspiring, despite being a reminder of how small and insignificant you are.

The person next to you has terrible body odor, you're exhausted, you're freezing, and you're developing some body odor of your own. But to borrow a philosophy from "High

School Musical," you're all in this together. The first African-American president was inaugurated, and I watched it 100 feet away, commercial-free.

While others crossed oceans and paid \$600 for one night on a college kid's couch, I got to sleep in my own bed that night. Lucky is an understatement.

I'm paying for my Inauguration Day adventure this morning with a vicious sore throat and undying under eye circles. My nose may be congested, but the extra box of Kleenex is well worth another day spent on History's playground.

When I graduate and move away from the DC area next year, I'll probably end up living in a place where the closest mall has a Big Lots instead of a botanical garden. I will surely miss all the action.

Hopefully I'll get to fly down for the 2012 Inauguration. As long as my parents don't charge me too much to sleep on the couch.

Susannigans
By Susannah Clark,
Associate Editor

“The first African-American president was inaugurated, and I watched it 100 feet away, commercial-free.”

”

Get on your knees, scumbag!



photo courtesy of codinghorror.com

And submit your
opinions to
umwbullet@gmail.com

Sexual Assault Can Happen to Anyone

BY ANNA HALBROOKS-FULKS
Guest Columnist

As a 9th grader, I used to read chain emails forwarded to me by my English teacher and other female role models in my life with titles like "forward this to every woman you know!" They were filled with instructions and tips, such as not getting into your car if a van with sliding doors is parked next to it.

But as I learn and think more critically about sexual assault, these emails infuriate me.

We are conditioned to believe that sexual assault is a crime that happens, usually to women, who have made stupid decisions to go by themselves into a parking complex or walk home alone at night.

It shouldn't matter where I am at what time or what I am wearing. It is not my fault if I get assaulted.

Some of the conversations I heard this past fall concern me. I overheard group meetings where well-intentioned students discussed the possibility of creating maps with "danger zones" so that everyone knows "where not to go." I heard students asking each other "who walks alone at night into the parking lot? I mean, really" and "I thought Fredericksburg was really safe."

Fredericksburg is safe: sexual assault happens everywhere.

As practical as self-defense classes and buddy systems may be, in some cases of sexual assault, it does not address the root of the problem and creates an alluring yet false sense of control. Everyone would like to believe that if he or she doesn't do x and y he or she won't be assaulted. But that simply isn't true.

Sexual assault can happen to anyone and a lot

of victims do not even know that they have been assaulted.

Someone who breaks in and uses a gun to overpower a woman is one thing, but the majority of sexual assault is acquaintance rape. This happens when two people consent to some sexual activity, kissing, touching, etc.—and one person is eventually pressured into, or not in a state in which they are able to assert that they are not comfortable with other activities.

The big question that we need to be asking ourselves is: Why the hell does sexual assault even happen in the first place?

The key to preventing sexual assault does not involve backwards strategies about teaching potential victims how to avoid it, but in examining this essential question.

There are many students, movements and groups who are already working to educate about sexual violence. Currently The White Ribbon Campaign, which focuses on men educating men about violence, is taking place. SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) members are also planning consent workshops and The Red Flag Campaign, which promotes awareness about dating violence, took place in the fall.

VOX, Voices for Planned Parenthood, and SDS will hold a forum on Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. with Professor Chris Kilmartin in the Red Room to address this question.

Answering this question does not just involve women. It does not just involve rapists. It involves examining learned behaviors and power dynamics in our society. In order to make our campus a safer place, everyone has to make an effort to learn why sexual assault happens and what they, as men, women, friends, significant others, professors, and students, can do to prevent it.

Anna Halbrooks-Fulks is a freshman.

Entertainment

UMW Comedy Troupe to Improvise Again

By DANIELLE VELARDI
Staff Writer

It's 10 p.m. on Thursday when a table of diners breaks into a rendition of "The Island of Misfit Toys." The musical patrons are UMW's improv comedy team, The Undeniably Adjacent. Such outbursts—in this case a song from the Disney movie "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"—are characteristic of the club's weekly meetings.

The group's first show of the semester will be this Friday, Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. in Combs 139 with no admission fee.

The show will be broken into three 30-

minute sets, each based on a one-word suggestion from the audience. Ben Vigeant, class of '08, started the group four years ago. The group has held auditions for new members every fall since the group's inception.

Vigeant began The Undeniably Adjacent four years ago, and since then the troupe had held open auditions every fall semester in order to attract new members. They come from different backgrounds, many of which

do not involve prior experience in comedy.

Junior Kyle Dratwa, the club's co-director, said he had never considered comedy before coming to UMW. Now, Dratwa said that he has discovered a love for comedy and performance arts.

"Improv comedy is one of the best ways [to get] into performance arts," Dratwa said.

"Shy is not a word I would use to describe myself," sophomore member Rachael Wonderlin ex-

plains. "Some members of the group are definitely quieter than others, but when we get on stage everything just clicks."

Melissa Falkenstein, a senior who is co-director of the club and the only remaining original member, said "You just need a good sense of humor, and you have to be comfortable in your own skin." She then added, "There is not one type of personality [in the troupe]."

Falkenstein said she plans to go on to graduate school for psychology after this year and hopes to find some way to keep up with improv comedy.

The Undeniably Adjacent
First show of the semester
Friday, 8 p.m. Combs 139

Rappahannock Independent Film Festival to Show Movies at the Wounded Bookshop

By DAVID GALLAGHER
Staff Writer

The Rappahannock Independent Film Festival (RIFF) began as the brainchild of Ryan Poe, a Fredericksburg native and independent filmmaker.

Poe, who also serves as RIFF's creative director, realized that Fredericksburg, a city with opportunities for artists, musicians and thespians, lacked an organized output for independent filmmaking. Poe began planning for the first RIFF in February of 2008.

The festival culminated in September of that year with 30 films, ranging from five minutes to an hour in length, based on the theme "Portraits," or films dealing with depictions of people, places or things.

The festival started "as a group of people who've never done a film festival before," Poe said. "It wasn't perfect, but it went well."

RIFF's next screening will be Feb. 20 at the Wounded Bookshop at 109 Amelia St. in downtown Fredericksburg.

They will be showing some of the finalists from the 2008 Festival. RIFF is currently preparing for the 2009 Festival.

With dates set for August 27 to 30, the RIFF is currently receiving, reviewing and selecting films for this year's festival. For the first festival, RIFF screened every film they received.

The hope for the 2009 festival is to be able to still show only 30 films, but to be much more selective in their selection process.

"We pretty much begged for films in 2008," Poe said. "We're looking to expand quality, not quantity."

Until the festival in August, RIFF is doing monthly screenings of films in an effort to draw attention and viewers to the festival.

This past Friday,

RIFF screened the "Crawford," a film by David Modigliani. "Crawford" is an hour-long documentary exploring the change President George W. Bush brought the small town of Crawford, Texas, after he announced he would be moving there in 1999, just after announcing he would be running for president.

"Crawford" can be viewed in its entirety on www.Hulu.com, where it premiered in October.

The film presents a remarkably politically unbiased account of how the town was completely turned on end after the arrival of the president.



Image courtesy of Ryan Poe

Local filmmaker Ryan Poe organized the Rappahannock Independent Film Festival to provide opportunities for artists in the area. The festival is funded in part by the Fredericksburg Athenaeum and sponsorship by local businesses.

riff rappahannock
independent
film festival

Image courtesy of iansoper.com

Modigliani presents footage from 2000 to 2007, covering the 2000 election, the Sept. 11 attacks, the 2004 election and the Iraq War.

Poe is proud of what the RIFF has become and what he believes it will develop into.

"[It could be the] next Cannes or Sundance," Poe said.

While he considers himself a filmmaker before a festival organizer, it is obvious he believes RIFF is an important project for him to be a part of right now.

"We just wanted to see something in Fredericksburg for people who are interested in film."

For information about RIFF screenings, visit riffilmfestival.com. To get the latest updates about shows at Wounded Bookshop, check out woundedbookshop.com.

Top 5: Reasons to Grow a Beard

By LANDON JAMES
Staff Writer

Over half of the world knows that feeling you get around 5 p.m. after not shaving for a couple of days, it is what scholars have dubbed "the beginning of the beard." Many debate over the practicality and stylishness of a beard, because let us be honest, not everyone can pull off a beard.

However, I have five persuasive and powerful reasons why you should consider starting this new year with beard.

1. Personal Comfort

Beards provide remarkable facial warmth in the harsh and crisp winter months. Ask anyone with a beard if they are warmer than you are and they will always say yes. Besides, even an ugly beard is warm.

2. The Perfect Accessory

Beards are unisex. Anyone can have one if they really want one. Ladies, that includes you. Why should an entire sex be shunned from

bearded pleasure while men freely enjoy the personal confidence and constant comfort of a hairy facial comrade? After all, the bearded lady has been a staple in traveling circuses and variety shows for centuries. Now that is warmth that endures.

3. Midnight Snack Storage

Beards are like Tupperware, you can save your food in them. Without even thinking, as you eat, thousands of food particles are slowly collecting in your beard for a snack further down the road. With a beard, the midnight run to the fridge is obsolete, for all you have to do is eat the clumped up pieces of food that have gathered in your beard over the course of the day.

4. Eco-Friendliness

Beards are safe for the environment and provide shelter for some of the smaller animals of the animal kingdom.

Beards have been commonly understood as ideal environments for nest-making but all ranges of birds from sparrows to bald eagles. Growing a beard is a not only a service to yourself, but to the environment.

5. Imitate Your Idols

If you grow a beard you will be like Ryan Marr, Emile Hirsch stand-in in "Into the Wild" and everybody's friend.

Sophomore Ryan Marr is one of the few individuals who has mastered the tactful and tasteful art of growing a beard at an early age. Often during conversation, Ryan's beard will finish sentences for him and it even looks over his e-mails.

Beards are burly, beautiful, bountiful, and benign and will not cause cancer, but these are only a few reasons why a beard is for you, me, and everyone.



Image courtesy of worldbeardchampionships.com



Image courtesy of blogs.sfwecly.com

Entertainment

'Gran Torino' Drives Message Home

By **MISSAK ARTINIAN**
Staff Writer

You learn a lot about people based on what they do and what they look like at a funeral. The opening scene in "Gran Torino" tells us a lot about Walt Kawalski and modern society at large.

What it tells us about society is that it's so over-saturated with technology that even Kawalski's granddaughter finds it more fitting to text her friends than to at least pretend to mourn her own grandmother's death. It tells us that society is so fixated on numbers and business that Kawalski's two sons have grown numb to the tragedy of their mother's death, and find it more appropriate to mock their father by observing that "the man's still living in the 50s" without so much as shedding a tear.

What the opening scene tells us about Kawalski (you better call him Mr. Kawalski) is that you really don't want to mess with the man. The way he scowls and stutters tells us he's holding back what he really wants to say, or worse, what he really wants to do. "Gran Torino" stars Clint Eastwood, who portrays Mr. Kawalski as what we've come to expect from his career's performances: badass.

As a retired Detroit autoworker, Kawalski is ashamed that his two sons sell Japanese cars, for what he sees as good reason: he's a Korean War Veteran. It doesn't matter that Japan isn't the same as Korea. They're all "chinks" to him. When a

Hmong (an ethnic group native to Southeast Asia) family moves next door to Walt, things start to get interesting.

Kawalski oftentimes sits on his porch, beer in hand, observing a familiar world filled with unfamiliar people. He spits when he sees something he disapproves of, like the old Hmong lady next door. She spits back a bigger, nastier wad of mucus. Perhaps the observation made by Kawalski's son in the opening scene was accurate. Things have changed since 1950. Walt, apparently, has not.

The streets of Kawalski's neighborhood are infested with gangs. Sitting on his porch, Kawalski observes a Hmong gang try to recruit the neighbor's timid, feminine teenage son, Thao. Kawalski couldn't care less. Just stay off his lawn and you'll

be fine.

But in order to be accepted into the gang, Thao has to steal Walt's most prized possession: a 1972 Gran Torino.

It's predictable that Walt will have to change by the end of the movie. This change can be attributed to Thao's more sensible sister, Sue. Walt saves her from a bunch of gangsters and spends time with her and even accepts an invitation to visit her home to taste Hmong food. He doesn't fully assimilate into the culture, per se, but he does come to understand that the "gooks" next door are more than just targets. In fact, by the end of the movie, he loves his neighbors more than he loves

his own materialistic, self-absorbed family.

Although Kawalski's transformation could be seen from a mile away, at least for me, it was the extent to which he changes that took me by surprise. Not only does he make a sacrifice for people that are very different than himself, he does it in a noble and unexpected way when you consider his history as a soldier. And it's not a sentimental ending by any means. It's realistic. It's touching.

I found Kawalski's transformation a symbol of modern American values. Despite a history rife marred by slavery, ignorance, bigotry, and intolerance, Americans showed the world that they could put their painful past behind them by electing an African-American into the highest office of the nation.

Mr. Kawalski may not be perfect by the end of the movie, but at least he took the time to understand and accept someone different than himself. Perhaps that's all we could expect from a guy with a history like his. That's all we can hope for.



image courtesy of fordfacebook50mega.com

Animal Collective Release Career-High 'Merriweather Post Pavilion' an Early Album of the Year Contender

By **RYAN MARR**
Staff Writer

Thanks to a few resourceful music pirates and an ill-timed blog leak, the hype machine occasionally known as the online music press has already trumpeted Animal Collective's latest effort, "Merriweather Post Pavilion,"—officially released in CD format this past Tuesday—as "an interactive pop album" (Sputnikmusic) and "one of the landmark American albums of the century," (Uncut Magazine) a testament to the best-of-2009 predictions the album has been already enjoying almost unanimously among critics.

Yep, to those of you now reaching to check your calendars, it's still January.

Now, before I join the chorus of universal acclaim, I feel this review merits a "hype disclaimer," if you will: "MPP," for all its supposed pop tendencies and accessibility, is still the work of the same ritual-celebrating neo-hippies behind the respective psych-folk and noise pop freak-outs of "Sung Tongs" and "Feels" which, despite earning them legions of enthusiastic Dead-head-esque followers, also spawned an equivalent amount of stubbornly affronted naysayers.

And despite the group's evolution to more classically-based song structures, nothing on "MPP," the group's eighth studio effort, is going to win over those naysayers—or even the uninitiated masses—and tap into mainstream markets a la recent indie success stories Modest Mouse, The Shins, and Arcade Fire. Animal Collective won't even be entertaining crowds this summer at their album's namesake, a Maryland venue known for bringing in some of the country's biggest pop acts.

Though the group, comprised of childhood friends Avey Tare (Dave Portner), Panda Bear (Noah Lennox), and Geologist (Brian Weitz)—no Deakin (Josh Dibbs) this time around—has always existed outside the boundaries of conventional genre type-casting, "MPP" flawlessly blends the group's best attributes—mind-blowing vocal harmonies, trance-inducing sound textures, cathartic rhythmic frenzies—into a surprisingly danceable, career-defining pop record.

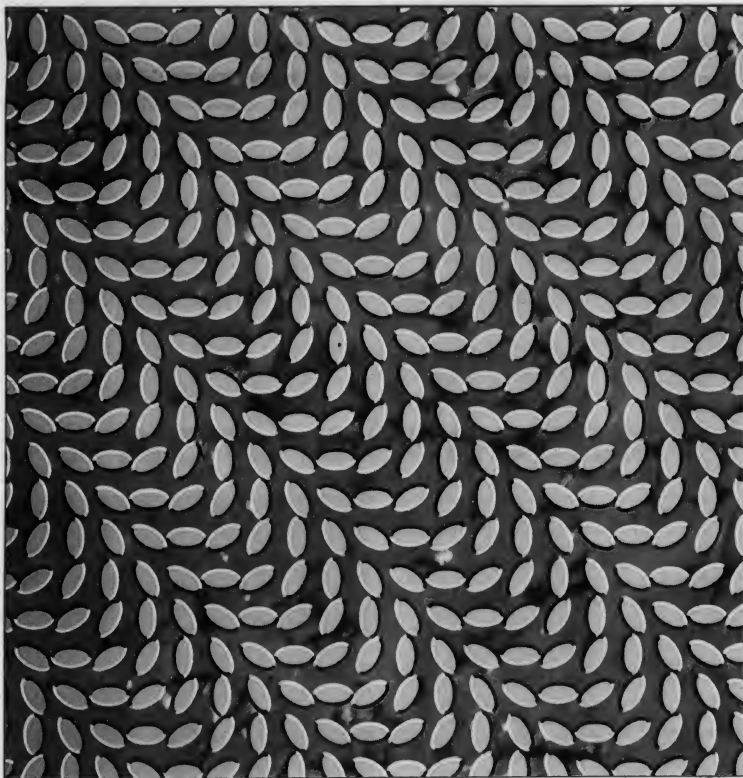


image courtesy of flickr.com

True to their neo-hippy aesthetic, Animal Collective's 'Merriweather Post Pavilion' utilizes a mind-melting optical illusion as its album art.

Yet despite all this, the casual music fan still finds themselves confronted with the sheer weirdness of the music.

That Animal Collective can produce this reaction, essentially de-familiarizing pop music in the process, justifies every salivating, exaggerated, "Pet Sounds"-referencing critical response this album will, and should, receive.

Nearly a decade into a sprawling discography better-known for exploring uncharted musical waters with the wide-eyed wonder of children than penning pop masterpieces about maturity, Animal Collective finally manage to rein in the self-indul-

gent, experimental kid-in-a-candy-shop aesthetic that stained their back-catalogue with thoughtfully calibrated songwriting reflecting the group's collective arrival at adulthood.

The secret here is consistency. Granted, every Animal Collective album has had moments of undeniable brilliance—the triumvirate ("Chores," "Reverend Green," and "Fireworks") anchoring 2007's otherwise lackluster "Strawberry Jam" immediately comes to mind—but on "MPP," in contrast to earlier albums, each song feels not only sonically linked, but mined from a singular vein of artistic inspiration.

Avey Tare and Panda Bear are now both married—Panda has a kid—and accordingly, a theme of domesticity winds its way through "MPP," evident in a track listing littered with titles such as: "My Girls," "Daily Routine," and "No More Running."

"I don't mean to seem like I care about material things like a social status/ I just want four walls and adobe slabs for my girls," sings Lennox on album standout and probable song-of-the-year contender "My Girls."

Removed from the context of the song, the line is unimpressive at best—yet, backed by a yelping Avey Tare, giant handclaps and a synth arpeggio that could easily have been ripped from "Baba O'Riley"—the song becomes a transcendental anthem for domestic bliss.

All over "MPP," growing-up becomes an ecstatic celebration of chest-rattling bass thumps, giddy handclaps, and soaring vocal melodies, all infused with a refreshing dose of childish wonderment that no one but Animal Collective could have pulled off.

Album opener "In the Flowers" finds Avey Tare observing a dancing stranger, "feeling envy for the kid who danced despite anything," before rediscovering his own youth over a pounding onslaught of steel drums.

"Summertime Clothes" continues this trend, detailing a young couple discovering the mysterious joys of a bustling city, and "Brother Sport," the triumphant closer, ends on an affirming note of positive encouragement despite the song's enigmatic lyrics.

But the real punch here isn't the lyrics—it's the dueling silver-throated tongues of Portner and Lennox lifting their otherwise vague lyrical meanderings to sublime heights.

"MPP," like recent releases by The National and LCD Soundsystem, has managed to tread the thinnest line in modern music—the line that bridges the gap between originality and convention, youth and adulthood, wonder and maturity.

All hype-generating hyperbole aside, listening to Merriweather Post Pavilion has—if only for 55 minutes—softened my stern brow of collegiate cynicism just enough to let the tiniest glint of childish glee shine through.

Features

UMW Fosters Debate in Washington



Courtesy of Anand Rao

Left: Queen Elizabeth Colbert, Jessica Janespar Ross, and Cameron Towns. Middle: Kevin Kallmyer and Terrell Taylor. Right: Debate coach Timothy O'Donnell. Below: Alternates for Voorhees College in Denmark, S.C.

University Aids Nationwide Debate Programs Through Consortium

By KAITLIN MAYHEW
Assistant Features Editor

It all started over dinner.

The Debate Consortium, a newly established institution, pairs universities that have strong competitive debate programs with historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that have expressed interest in re-launching, or in some cases beginning, debate programs at their respective schools.

The idea for the consortium came to life after one meal between three influential minds in the art of debate in the Commonwealth of Virginia, John Davis, curator of two museums within the Smithsonian Institution, Jeff Poro, author of the story that became the movie "The Great Debaters," and UMW debate coach communications professor Timothy O'Donnell.

The idea culminated in the Debate Consortium's most prominent debating event, The 2009 Inaugural Debate Series, held in The Smithsonian Institution's Baird Auditorium in Washington D.C., Monday.

"To come from a dinner conversation to a presidential inaugural event is quite an accomplishment," John Davis said, curator of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

However, the Debate Consortium more than simply sponsors this event; debate itself is an historical institution.

"The tradition of debate in the oldest historically black colleges was quite strong, and it was lost," O'Donnell said. "And I think we need to build it up again."

Janice J. Hayne is vice chancellor for student affairs at Fayetteville State University, an HBCU that has already joined and become active in the consortium.

Hayne believes that it is already a



success.

"There has been lots of interest," Hayne said.

Fayetteville State University is one of many schools facing the challenge of restarting a debate team that has been long dormant.

"[The program has been inactive] probably a good ten years," Haynes said. "We don't know for sure."

The debate team at Fayetteville is currently set up as a club so that it can receive university funding. They also have begun offering a course in argumentation to train interested students. The Debate Consortium has been a huge step in giving their debaters real experience.

"One of the things we are doing is trying to create a 'great debaters' learning community," Hayne said.

The three founders of the Debate Consortium created a multi-faceted program. In addition to bringing together established debate teams with HBCUs, eight of which have already joined the consortium, they also plan to sponsor more debate events, create a camp to jump-start debating programs in only a few months, and integrate government institutions into college debate.

The consortium has already been successful in including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in their Earth Day debates last year. In these debates, UMW as well as two other colleges debated current environmental issues.

Davis asserted that the inclusion of such agencies is beneficial to both sides.

"Agencies such as the EPA are able

to sit and judge," Davis said. "They want to hear what the two sides are."

Jeff Poro wrote the story for the movie "The Great Debaters," released last year. The movie not only included an extraordinary example of college debate, the first time a black debate team debated a white team, but it was also the beginning of James Farmer's debate career.

"If I had written a car crash movie it would have been a thrill," Poro said. But he asserted that such a film would have lacked the passion and the historical significance that "The Great Debaters" embodies.

"We used some of the momentum from the movie to restart debate at historically black colleges," Davis said.

UMW has an important place in the history of debate, as the school where

James Farmer himself was a professor of history and American studies.

"We have a historic responsibility and we have a namesake and lineage to a historic figurehead," O'Donnell said of why he believes the debate consortium is such an important program for UMW.

UMW is, as a result of O'Donnell's efforts, currently one of the most active universities in the consortium. The workshop for the inaugural college debate was held at the Creative Writing and Debate building on College Ave. and William Street.

"We are tethered to [UMW]," Davis said. "We could not have found a finer host. [O'Donnell] has been a leader."

According to Davis, one of the most important reasons debate programs must continue not only in HBCUs but in all higher education is that he believes debate to be more than just a pastime.

He said it is an art form.

"This activity precedes the founding fathers," Davis said.

Davis cited historical organizations such as Harvard University's Spy Club, which was a student group organized in the 1700s.

Although the practice of debate preceded the founders of the United States, it did not exclude them.

"Almost every leader of the American revolution had studied argumentation," Davis said. "Our country has such a rich history in debate."

The Debate Consortium is in part Davis', along with O'Donnell's and Poro's, way of bringing classical debate into modern higher education, and ensuring that it reaches every potential institution.

"This is really about helping the HBCUs," Poro said.

The consortium has not only begun to gain momentum but also supporters, such as the Smithsonian Institution and the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Painting Fredericksburg



A sampling of downtown's local artist showcases, from Left to Right: Jeremy Gann at Jackson Street Gallery, Sonja Petersen Wise at The Griffin, B. Bley at Brushstrokes, Nancy Balogh and Adel Trip at Jackson Street Gallery, Sonja Petersen Wise at The Griffin, Christopher Rok at Kybecca Wine Bar and Shop, and Joseph Wilkinson at Brushstrokes Gallery.

Basil's: Comfort from the Cold

When the weather is warm enough, Chrissy Jones opens the doors of the Italian-style restaurant Basil's Bistro

By KJ ADLER
Staff Writer

on Caroline Street to unleash her secret weapon upon the citizens of Fredericksburg: garlic on the stove. The scent's strength stops people near the front of the restaurant. Before entering, customers proclaim to a smiling Jones that the place just smelled "too good" to pass up.

Jones has been in the restaurant business for a little over a year after she decided to leave the FBI Academy.

Coming into Virginia from California, Jones caught sight of the little restaurant next to The Galleria and knew that she had found her new business.

Basil's is a small restaurant that holds a dozen tables with checkered floors and an open kitchen. It is a perfect cozy location for the cold nights in Virginia winter.

"When I came in, I was inspired," Jones said. "I could visualize the changes as I walked through the restaurant."

Since taking ownership, Jones has been working hard to get her restaurant on the Fredericksburg map. With

only a staff of five by her side, Jones helps in the kitchen and on the floor. She constantly pushes for new items and specials on the menu in order to keep the selection fresh and the customers happy.

"I love to change the menu, and the slow season gives me the opportunity to do that," Jones said. "I really enjoy making people happy with food."

Along with such weekly specials as "Pasta Lucia," as well as an ever-changing selection of wines and a wide range of desserts, the bistro also

has "Flip for your Dinner" Tuesdays and "Whiner" Wednesdays.

On Tuesdays, between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., each waitress is armed with a coin and the check. The patron calls heads or tails as the coin is flipped. If guessed correctly, the main dishes are on the house.

"It's a great return clientele," Jones said. "For the customers, it's something fun to do on a week night."

Jones felt inspired by a restaurant she used to eat at in California.

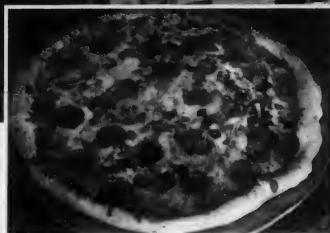
"They did it on Mondays and their business increased a lot because of it," Jones said.

On Whiner Wednesdays, Basil's has a selection of wine specials and five dollar appetizers from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. every week.

Restaurant Review



Brittany DeVries/Bullet



Owner Chrissy Jones serves a customer during the lunch hour at Basil's Bistro in downtown Fredericksburg.



Basil's Bistro

909 Caroline St.
(540) 899-5414

Hours: T, W, Th: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.
Fri: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and 5-9 p.m..
Sat: 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID

By BRITTANY De VRIES
Features Editor

African praise songs derive from a tradition where one celebrates the life, actions, inspirations, and work of another man or woman.

Elizabeth Alexander, an African American author and poet, made a very bold attempt to praise our nation's new leader on Tuesday.

Her difficult attempt to rise to the occasion tumbled into a lengthy list of poor metaphors and loosely meshed lines that made cracks through which her potentially great ideas fell.

She saw hope and inspiration, could see in her farmer's "changing sky" a shift into an American history not before seen. Yet her poem's word choice, poetic devices, and simplistic style only sabotaged a strength we had all hoped would appear as reinforcement of the great day and great man for which the piece was recited Tuesday morning.

One example is where Alexander overwrites an otherwise strong idea:

"Someone is trying to make music somewhere with a pair of wooden spoons on an oil drum with cello, boom

box, harmonica, voice."

The list of instruments, the overstated "human voice" as instrument, weakens her image of a person making music, making something from no devices. Simplicity is an art form that Alexander reaches on an elementary level, combining poor abstraction with hasty nouns like "boom box" and "spoons" that distract her audience and make her lines juvenile.

She rambles back into abstraction; talks about words and uses too many adjectives to describe her tangential digression.

Commas are not an excuse to continue a strand of bad thought, but to emphasize those that are strong.

Then, when she finds herself up to her knees in wordy muck, Alexander returns to her lists.

Her unoriginal metaphor of progress by means of "dirt roads" and "highways" is dull and unmoving, as she fails to attain poetic authority from a crowd that wants more than anything to be moved.

However, the 'roads as progress,' though cliché, were authentic when juxtaposed to her finale on 'love.'

"What if the mightiest word is love, love beyond marital, filial, national. Love that casts a widening pool of light. Love with no need to preempt grievance. In today's sharp sparkle [...]"

Paired with glittery and sparkly adjectives, or a "pool of light," Alexander pulls us out of the muck with a force that landed us too high into the clouds.

She read to America clouds of fluffy, poetic junk.

It is not to say that she is a bad writer, or that her other works stoop as low. Simply, there are so many other artists more deserving of those few minutes at the podium.

This country has thousands of poignant writers, innovative artists, people who have harnessed and made malleable their art craft to serve a great purpose.

And, most often, these works go unannounced and unseen by anybody else.

Yet whom do we celebrate? Whom do we put in the limelight to represent such a grand community in our nation?

Needless to say, Obama's speech rang rich with the lyricism that Alexander's praise song lacked.



Courtesy of google.com

This Week in Town

Friday

The Green Boys and Old Grass Revue

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

All Ages

Location: Rec Center on William St.

Salsa Dance Bootcamp

Time: 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10

Location: Paisanos Italian Eatery 5442 Southpoint Plaza

More Info:

<http://salsa.meetup.com/385>

Saturday

Jon Bachman

Folk music

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Griffin

Bookshop and Coffee Bar

Jazz Jam

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Bang Music, Garrisonville Rd, Stafford, VA

More Info: www.bangmusicstore.com

Happy Healthy New Year Workshop

Tips to be happy and healthy in the new year. Ways to exercise, de-stress and eat right throughout the year

Time: 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: Free

Location: Chancellors Village 12100 Chancellor's Village Lane

More Info: www.american-mindandbody.org

Sunday

With Haste at KC's Music Alley

Bands included: With Haste, Amen the Animal, I Saw a Ghost, Say You Will, Reason, Ready the Way, and The Secret Cool

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door

Location: KC's Music Alley 1917 Princess Anne St.

More Info: <http://www.myspace.com/withhaste>

News

Students Quietly Protest Library Exam Week Hours

◀ PROTEST, page 1



Courtesy of Anand Rao

Terrell Taylor, sophomore, and Kevin Kallmyer, junior, listen attentively to another team's address during the Inaugural Debate.

Debaters Attend New Conference

◀ DEBATE, page 1

cluded Obama's policies on energy and climate change, and foreign policy.

"I thought the event was great," Kallmyer said. "Terrell and I really enjoyed it."

College debaters like Taylor and Kallmyer have an average of seven days to prepare for debates such as the Inaugural Series, as well as in many cases researching for other upcoming debates at the same time.

"Debate is a research driven activity," Taylor said.

Travel is another aspect that makes debate a particularly challenging activity physically, since many national tournaments are held at universities throughout the U.S.

"I was in California as of last Sunday," Kallmyer said. "It's tough. But it's part of the routine and you get used to it. It's part of the reason debate is challenging but I've come to decide that anything that makes an activity more

difficult is probably a good thing."

But the early hours of and long days don't dissuade Taylor or Kallmyer from participating in this age old extracurricular.

"I can't wait to do it again," Taylor said, almost immediately after his debate had finished.

The UMW debate team is currently ranked 12th overall on the national level. The team and their coach are very active in the college debate scene as well as the Debate Consortium. UMW was the host for all the colleges and universities who came into town for the inaugural debate, and held a workshop and reception for all the teams at the "mansion" or the creative writing and debate building on William St.

"We are indebted to [UMW] and the leadership of your coach. Without their help, this would not have happened," Davis said.

For more information on the debate, see "UMW Fosters Debate in Washington" page 7.

UMW Presence Promotes Growth of City's Economy

◀ SPENDING, page 1

cents was generated in the local economy due to the re-spending of the initial dollar by local businesses and their employees."

Due to this additional 55 cents per dollar, the complete impact of spending on the regional economy solely on the part of the college totaled close to \$15.2 million. Operational and outlay spending by the college as well as spending associated with students, visitors and retirees totaled \$133.9 million.

Executive Director of University Budget and Financial Analysis Paul Messplay has a positive view of the study's findings and impact.

"Overall, the study finds that the University of Mary Washington has a significant positive economic, social, intellectual and cultural impact on the Fredericksburg community and the Commonwealth of Virginia," he said in an e-mail interview.

UMW Economics Professor Margaret Ray analyzed a short overview of the study, and felt confident in its conclusions.

"The overview of the study indicates that it is a standard economic impact study using income and employment multipliers," Ray said via e-mail. "It uses basic data available from the university and provides an accurate, conservative estimate of UMW's economic impact."

The figures that appear in the study have been widely accepted as conservative, an affirmation made by Hurley, Messplay, and Fuller.

According to Hurley, the study was commissioned for a variety of reasons, including a perceived desire to remind

the entire community of Mary Washington's substantial economic influence.

"It is important to remind ourselves and the community exactly what the economic impact of our presence is," Hurley said.

Responding to concerns voiced by residents of the region was also a factor in commissioning the study.

Specifically, Hurley mentioned a letter he received from local residents during his tenure as acting President.

"Local residents complained about our visitors creating wear and tear on our streets and sidewalks," Hurley said. "And that they should be charged some sort of additional tax."

The study aims to remedy this perception. According to Messplay, an important function of Mary Washington is to support the local economy and foster its growth.

"As a state institution, we are expected to advance the economic viability of the region and the Commonwealth," he said in an e-mail interview.

Hurley also mentioned that such a study also proves useful when the various education advocacy groups request up-to-date monetary information.

However, with the recent downturn in the national economy, it may prove difficult to maintain monetary support.

"In general, one would expect a period of restrained spending on the part of UMW and its students as everyone copes with the economic realities," Messplay said. "Overall, however, UMW will continue to be a major influence on the local economy and will likely have a moderating effect on the general economic downturn."

students' goal, he was bothered by the way they brought it to his attention.

"The sit-in itself is inconvenient, to use a disingenuous term," he said.

Gardner says that other organizers wanted to stay longer, but Gardner urged them to remain peaceful and unobtrusive.

"In our defense, the event was minimal," she said.

Speaking of Andrea Klopsis, the night supervisor at the circulation desk, Strohl said, "I think the thing that was most distressing to me was that [the protesters] were convinced that the young lady would be paid overtime. We're not paid overtime."

Klopsis says that she was not bothered by the sit-in, despite being caught off guard. "Nothing's ever stressful,"

adequately known to students.

"I think it speaks to the fact that for a long time there hasn't been a sense that student concerns will be dealt with in priority," O'Brien said. "That attitude has been changing but with that change, student government has not been out there enough to let students know we can affect the process of change."

Unlike Gardner, Kauffman would not have altered how he went about bringing his concerns to the administration. "I'm happy with how things turned out," he said.

While Kauffman saw the sit-in as "purely business," Rachamadugu said he enjoyed the experience. "While it was a great point to make, it's something I'm always going to remember about my college experience, that I made a stand for something."

"It just shows that the students here can be heard. I think the stand was just as important as the message," Rachamadugu said. "What a great experience!"

Mikhalevsky, Strohl and O'Brien had not known there was a desire for extended hours until after the sit-in. Strohl said that the only mention of the issue last semester was on two anonymous yellow suggestion cards at the library.

Protesters said that last semester they spoke with library employees, filled out suggestion cards and signed a petition to have the hours extended.

"My first thought was to go through the proper channels," Rachamadugu said. After signing a petition earlier in the semester, he felt that the proper channels had already been tested.

Rachamadugu said he did not know that petition never reached administrators until meeting with Mikhalevsky after the sit-in.

"I hope, going forward, that students have multiple ways of approaching us," said Mikhalevsky.

Had he been reached directly, Strohl said he would have urged students to consider that a full night's sleep might be better for exam performance than all-night studying.

"They're not going to listen to us tell them, 'It wouldn't hurt for you to study in the semester,'" he said.

According to Strohl, this isn't the first time UMW has enacted the policy. He recalled that during the 1999-2000 school year, President William Anderson had requested the library remain open all night for exams.

"We had only three people in the building," Strohl said. "And the President who was here at the time said, 'Well, we won't do that again.'"

"While it was a great point to make, it's something I'm always going to remember about my college experience, that I made a stand for something."

—Daniel Kauffman

she said. "It's my job to be here and take care of the students."

"I think we all agree in hindsight that this was successful to a certain degree, but others might argue that it wasn't a very nice way to do it," Gardner said, adding, "Students should do everything in their power to bring their concerns to the attention of the administration."

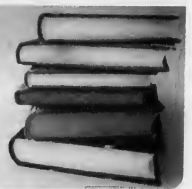
"In hindsight I would have done it differently."

Gardner said that gathering petitions and meeting with SGA President Sean O'Brien would have been better alternatives to the sit-in.

"None of that ended happening because we were so busy," she said.

Neither she nor Kauffman knew of the Student Services Committee, an organization that allows students to voice concerns directly to the administration, until after its role in extending library hours.

O'Brien felt that though official processes were in place to enact the policy change, the SGA and other administrative bodies had not made them



2009 Best Value Colleges

The University of Mary Washington has been named to the Princeton Review's 100 "Best Value Colleges for 2009." The best value colleges, reported Thursday, January 8 on the Princeton Review's web site, features 50 public and 50 private colleges and universities. UMW is listed among the nation's 50 "Best Value Public Colleges." The Princeton Review bases its rankings on surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private colleges and universities. The selection criteria covered more than 30 factors in the areas of academics, costs of attendance and financial aid, using the most recently reported data from each institution for its 2007-08 academic year. In recent years, the University of Mary Washington has seen its academic reputation gain national recognition through consistently high rankings in several selective college guidebooks

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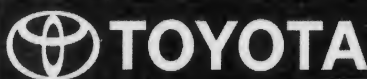
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Sports



President Obama Ready To Take On College Football World

By JOEY MERKEL
Sports Writer

The night before he was elected, now President Barack Obama shocked the sports world with his scandalous comments regarding college football's Bowl Championship Series "playoff system," or lack thereof.

Some say it might have been risky to disclose his interest on such a tender topic in America right now, on the eve of what at the time was the most important day of his life. But Obama stared adversity right in the face as he has done all throughout his life and spoken his true feelings on national television. Well, at least to those that have ESPN, or care enough to check out the video on YouTube.

When ESPN's Chris Berman asked the future president how he felt about the way that we decided a National Champion in college football, Obama looked right into the camera and spoke passionately about the intensely-debated subject.

"I think it's about time we had playoffs in college football. I'm fed up with these computer rankings and this that and the other," Obama said. "Get eight teams — the top eight teams right at the end. You got a playoff. Decide on a national champion."

Many ESPN analysts, along with other

sports site around the country agree with Obama's sentiments, but unfortunately, even someone with as much power as he currently has little to no effect on the committees decisions to change the system.

"We deeply respect the president-elect and we are glad that he is a fan of college football," David Frohnmayer said in an e-mail response to ESPN. "We have the most compelling regular season in all of sports, and I'm sure that contributes to Senator Obama's enjoyment of our great game."

Frohnmayer, currently the head of the Bowl Championship Series Presidential Oversight Committee was sure to be politically correct in his response. But the way it came out to some Obama supporters was, "Thanks, but no Thanks, Mr. President-Elect."

"My colleagues and I on the BCS Presidential Oversight Committee have discussed the future of postseason football on many occasions and we do not believe a playoff would be in the best interest of the sport, the student-athletes or our many other constituencies," Frohnmayer said.

But Obama did not stop there. He wanted to make sure people know that he was serious about change. Even after Frohnmayer's comments respecting him for his opinion but to leave decisions up to the committee, Obama followed his

Monday Night Football statements by elaborating his feelings in an interview with "60 Minutes."

"If you've got a bunch of teams who play throughout the season and many of them have one loss or two losses, there's no clear, decisive winner," Obama said during his "60 Minutes" appearance. "We should be creating a playoff system."

By the end of the interview, Obama made sure that his point was clear.

"I'm going to throw my weight around a little bit."

At the end of the college football season, in the top 10, there were seven one-loss teams, including two undefeated teams in Utah and Boise State ranked seven and nine respectively.

The biggest argument for a playoff, most analysts say, is that because the schools in the top ten often don't play each other during the regular season, it's impossible to find out who is really better than who.

Even when they do play each other, it is not so clear-cut, as we saw in the Big 12 this year. When then No.1 Oklahoma played then No. 5 Texas, Texas came out victorious. However, a month later when No. 1 Texas rolled in to Lubbock to play



Mary Turner/Bullet

the No. 7 ranked Red Raiders of Texas Tech, they left with their first loss.

Then to throw another wrench into the situation just two weeks after defeating Texas, Texas Tech was beat badly by Oklahoma.

At the regular season, each loss was the only one for each team, but in the end it was, for some reason, Oklahoma that was given the opportunity to play in the National Championship game, leaving Texas Tech and Texas in lesser-important bowl games.

In the end, the University of Florida Gators took down the Oklahoma Sooners in the National Championship game and earned the No. 1 spot in the final ranking.

Though President Obama's plan is not flawless, it is a start to a problem that absolutely needs fixing.



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Sports

"Tonight we played tough. That's what I was most proud of."

—Coach Rod Wood

Men's Basketball Nabs Tough Victory Against CAC Rival Marymount

By ZACHARY MORETTI
Staff Writer

The Eagles improved their record to 8-6 this year while increasing their Capital Athletic Conference win total to five after a hard fought game against the Marymount University Saints. Led by senior guard Matt Hale's 24 points, the University of Mary Washington took down Marymount 60-55 Monday night.

"We won because of toughness," Coach Rod Wood said. "We didn't play our best game, but we got the 'W' and that's what counts. I saw a lot of growth from Saturday's game to tonight's one. We let one get away Saturday and I don't think we were that tough. Tonight we played tough. That's what I was most proud of."

In what can easily be described as a physical, defensive game, both teams started off cold from the field. Seven minutes into the game both teams were only able to score five points apiece.

With junior center Brandon Altmann in early foul trouble, Hale stepped in and connected for the Eagles' first 12 points of the evening. At the end of the first half, UMW led Marymount 27-25, with Hale leading all scorers with 17 points.

With Altmann on the bench for much of the first half, it was clear that Wood wanted to try and reestablish his interior game after Altmann scored six straight points for the Eagles. However, after just a minute and four seconds into the half Altmann picked up his third and fourth foul and was sent back to the bench.

In a game where fouls were called fairly loosely in the first half, it became obvious in the second that the referees attempted to tighten up the foul calling as both teams were in the bonus by the mid-point of the second half.

Being "in the bonus" means that the team has accumulated too many fouls and gives the opposing team two foul shots for every foul committed regardless of whether or not they were shooting foul.

Marymount did all they could to stop Hale's effort in the second half. The Saints switched defenders often and changed the manner in which they defended him. Marymount's game plan only worked slightly as Hale still managed seven big second-half points.

"A lot of teams have been doing that lately," Hale said. "I just try to tell myself not to force shots but instead to become more of a facilitator."

"Matt's just a great player and he does it every night," Wood said. "He does whatever the team needs him to do to win. He plays so hard and most nights he just wills us to victory. That's what he did tonight. We need other players to step up and start producing at his level."

After building an eight-point Eagle lead, the Saints stormed back and cut the lead to a score of 55-53 with only a minute left in regulation. In what ended with an exciting finish, the Saints had multiple opportunities to get the game tied up. The first coming off a short three-pointer that led to an over-the-back foul on senior guard Kevin Storur.

After Marymount's Elvin Ellis converted one of two free throws, Altmann put the lead back to three by making a one of two free throws of his own. With six and a half seconds left in the game, Marymount had one last shot to tie the game at 58, but Saint's guard Patrick Prewitt was unable to connect.

In desperation, freshman guard Ryan Farrar was fouled by Marymount but the Saints' strategy to stop the clock did not work as Farrar connected on both of his foul shot, icing the game at 60-55.



Courtesy Clint Offen

Senior Matt Hale (above) led his team to victory on Monday against Marymount, scoring 24 points. Junior Brandon Altmann (Left, here against Gallaudet) scored six straight points to start the second half on Monday.



"This was a huge win for us, especially after a tough loss on Saturday," Hale said. "It was good to come out here at home and get a win. We think of ourselves as a good team and good teams don't lose back to back games and they don't lose at home."

When asked what needs to be improved upon if the Eagles are to push for a Capital Athletic Conference title this year, Wood responded with this sentiment.

"Four things; free throws, a positive rebounding margin, limiting the opponent's offensive rebounds, and limiting our turnovers to 10 or less. Right now we aren't doing those things, yet we are still finding ways to win games. If we improve in those areas, I think we will be really tough to beat."

Women's Basketball Wins in OT

By NICK NELSON
Asst. Sports Editor

On a night honoring the courage of Virginia Tech's students and faculty in the wake of the April 2006 events, as well as the memory of Erin Peterson, the No. 19 University of Mary Washington Eagles



Courtesy of Clint Offen

Senior guard Katy Larson helped her team win in overtime by contributing 19 points.

put out a thrilling 83-76 overtime victory Monday night over their conference rival, No. 18 Marymount University Saints.

The Eagles played an intense game throughout, determined to find ways to bring it to the next level when weaker teams may have folded under the pressure. Despite being outscored 38-33 in the first half, the Eagles came back in the second half with fury and drive, determined to get the win for Peterson.

Peterson had strong ties to the Mary Washington men's and women's basketball teams before her tragic death in the Virginia Tech shootings, despite attending college roughly 220 miles and four hours away.

Peterson graduated from Westfield High School in Chantilly, Virginia in 2006, after playing basketball with UMW senior Kaitie Clarkin and supporting the men's team anchored by UMW senior Matt Hale. She also played Amateur Athletic Union basketball with junior Ashley Reed.

Majoring in international studies, Peterson hoped to use her degree and her education in order to help those less fortunate abroad. Senior guard Katy Larson explained the importance of the game. "It was so great to get the win tonight. Erin's parents are such amazing, amazing people, and it was awesome to win for them."

The win, however, did not come without a heavy amount of drama and struggle. As if the tribute for Peterson was not enough of a storyline, Monday's game was a rematch of the Capital Athletic Conference championship game, which the Eagles won by a resounding 90-59 margin.

Looking for revenge, Marymount came out shooting, leading by five going into halftime, despite Mary Washington shooting 42 percent in the first half and holding Marymount to just a 38 percent shooting percentage. Mary Washington held the shooting lead, finishing with 44 percent shooting to Marymount's 41 percent.

"We lost our intensity in that first half," Larson said. "We did a great job picking ourselves up and getting back into the game the rest of the way."

The fans also stepped up the intensity in the second half. Audibly displeased with the way the referees had been calling the game, the booing came quickly and loudly, with the spectators in the bleachers showing no restraint in their disdain for the officiating.

Despite the controversy, the Eagles shook off the early-game rust and turned on their play, outscoring Marymount by a margin of 34-26, before Marymount hit a buzzer-beating three pointer to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, staunch defense and clutch free throws allowed Mary Washington to pull away and outscore Marymount 16-9 in the period.

Senior forward Ashton Mitchell led the Eagles with 21 points and nine rebounds, while Larson added 19 points. Freshman guard Jenna McRae also added 15 points and six rebounds of her own.



Courtesy Clint Offen

Freshman guard Katie Wimmer had 21 points in Saturday's game against Gallaudet University.

Marymount's scoring was led by Terrell White with 25 points, three of which came on the buzzer beating shot that forced the game into overtime. White was one of four Marymount players to score in double digits.

"We just need to maintain our intensity from here on out," Larson said. "We have to keep our heads. We're a talented team, but if we're flat out there, we're not going to play well. We just have to hustle out there."

The win put Mary Washington at 13-2 overall and 5-1 in conference play with the upset victory; with Marymount falling to 12-3 overall and an identical 5-1 record in conference play. York College is the only remaining team with an undefeated record in conference play, at 7-0 on the season.

The Eagles play again in back to back road games against Wesley College and Stevenson University, then return home against rival Salisbury University on Jan. 28.